

**Conservation Commission Minutes
Tuesday, November 10, 2015
Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Rd.
5:30pm**

Present: Members: Chair Ned Phillips, Jr., Vice Chair Fred Leeder, David Roosa, Leslie Slate, and Donald Littlefield. **Absent:** Marea Mott and John Hopf. Also present Administrative Assistant Teresa Chmiel for the recording of the minutes.

Call to Order

Chair Ned Phillips, Jr. called the regular meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 5:30pm.

Discuss/Act on possible development of the process to encourage increased parking along roads, more shoulder room on roads for bike traffic, and controlling rain water runoff into Great Salt Pond and fresh water tributaries.

This agenda item was a request from the Town Council. Mr. Phillips, Jr. asked for comments from the Commission on the possible development of the process to encourage increased parking along roads, more shoulder room on roads for bike traffic, and controlling rain water runoff into Great Salt Pond and fresh water tributaries. The Commission offered the following:

Parking along roads

- The Commission was not in favor of increased parking along Corn Neck Road;
- The Commission discussed limiting the number of cars coming to the island; and
- One Commissioner suggested establishing a jitney.

Shoulder room on roads for bike traffic

- The Commission discussed this was not the answer to create shoulder room on the roads for bike traffic especially between Scotch and Town Beach as this area is heavily congested; in addition
- Will take away the natural beauty of the land; as well as
- Interfere with the proposed increased of parking, for the reason that cars will drive over the bike lane or back into bicyclist.

Controlling rain water runoff into the Great Salt Pond

- An engineer is needed to access the rain water runoff; if a problem is identified will be necessary to put in curbs;
- A recommendation was made to invite the committee for the GSP to attend the next meeting of the Conservation Commission for discussion of the rain water runoff.

Mr. Leeder made a motion, seconded by Mr. Slate to table this agenda item and ask the Committee for the Great Salt Pond to attend the next Conservation Commission to discuss the rain water runoff into the Great Salt Pond and fresh water tributaries.

4 Ayes (Phillips, Leeder, Roosa, and Slate)

0 Nays

3 Absent (Hopf, Littlefield, and Mott)

Mr. Littlefield arrived at 5:45pm.

Update on the Beach SAMP Adaptation Workshop held on October 22, 2015.

Mr. Phillips acknowledged that from the workshop there is nothing new to report to the Commission, as research is still ongoing on projected sea level rise and dune reconfiguration.

Discuss/Act on Tree RI Grant Program 2016-2017.

No discussion or action was taken.

Correspondence:

Receipt of a Document dated October 14, 2015 from CRMC re: Joint Public Notice, CRMC File No.: 2015-10-003 and RIDEM Water Quality Certification Number: DP 15-144 for consideration of the application of Town of New Shoreham for State of Rhode Island Assent and State of Rhode Island Dredge Permit and State of Rhode Island Water Quality Certification.

No action was taken.

Approval of minutes of October 13, 2015

The minutes will be available at the next scheduled meeting.

Adjournment.

The Commission was in agreement to ask for a budgeted line item for snow fencing for the 2017 fiscal year. This item will be placed on the Conservation Commission December's agenda to draft a request to the Town Council asking consideration for a dollar amount to purchase snow fencing, poles, and installation.

Mr. Phillips, Jr. asked Terri Chmiel to send a request to the Town Council asking about the status of the Block Island Tree Ordinance.

With no further discussions the meeting was adjourned at 6:04pm in a motion by Mr. Leeder and seconded by Mr. Littlefield.

5 Ayes (Phillips, Leeder, Roosa, Slate, and Littlefield)

0 Nays

2 Absent (Hopf and Mott)

Respectfully submitted

Teressa L. Chmiel

Administrative Assistant Building and Land Use

Minutes approved: December 8, 2015